



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 4 2002

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to transmit for your review our draft *Implementation Guidance for Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria*.

Our Nation's waters are a valuable recreational resource. We use them for swimming and recreating, seeking adventure through white water rafting, surfing, and kayaking, or simply enjoying their aesthetic qualities while hiking or birdwatching. Protection of these waterbodies begins when states, territories, and authorized tribes adopt water quality standards. We wrote the draft *Implementation Guidance for Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Bacteria* to help state, territory, and authorized tribal water quality programs adopt and implement bacteriological water quality criteria to protect waters designated for recreation. This document may also serve as a useful resource for state and local beach program managers and the public.

We look forward to receiving your comments on this draft and to working with you to ensure the Nation's recreational waters are protected. We will consider all comments received by August 2, 2002, as we develop the final guidance. You can obtain an electronic copy of the draft guidance on the internet at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/bacteria>. Please direct your comments by letter, e-mail, or fax to:

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Water Quality Standards Branch  
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Please let me know if you would like to discuss this draft guidance further. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Elizabeth Southerland", is positioned above the typed name.

Elizabeth Southerland, Director  
Standards and Health Protection Division  
Office of Science and Technology

Enclosure